

Self-help
articles
enlighten
all winter
long



Ashley
planning
to wed on
French
Riviera?



Heist foiled by 'help' from victim

ODDITY In retrospect, the man's offer to run to the bank and get more money for his two robbers was likely too good to be true.

So as the thieves waited in the man's Chebucto Road home, it was the police who showed up, rather than the victim returning.

The 53 and 51-year-old would-be thieves now face charges of break-and-enter and robbery.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News page 2



Waterside teardown to be appealed

World page 6

Lies from either side in U.S. vote

Sport page 8



Capers take women's AUS finals

Workology pg 10

Role playing
with soldiers

Movies page 12

'Molly' so
predictable,
it's scary



Halifax Mooseheads forward Tomas Knotek wires a shot past Gatineau Olympiques goalie Maxime Clermont during Sunday's QMJHL game at the Metro Centre. The Mooseheads won the game 4-2.

Revenge of the Moose

Team hands Olympiques payback after last year's semifinals

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It was a modest form of revenge, but the Halifax Mooseheads were thrilled to dish it out to the Gatineau Olympiques.

The Mooseheads, who were unceremoniously swept by the Olympiques in last year's Quebec Major Junior Hockey League semifinals, took out their frustrations yesterday in a 4-2 win before a crowd of 6,003 at the Metro Centre. It was the first meeting

of the two teams since the Olympiques stunned a favoured and powerful Mooseheads team and left it reeling with a long summer of soul-searching.

"We were definitely up for this," said Mooseheads forward Yuri Cheremetiev, one of 10 returning players.

"We were motivating everybody before the game, saying we needed to get some vengeance and some payback. We got it."

Perhaps Halifax's biggest sense of satisfaction came from neutralizing Gatineau star Paul Byron,

"We were motivating everybody before the game, saying we needed to get some vengeance and some payback. We got it."

Yuri Cheremetiev, Mooseheads forward

who torched the Herd for seven goals in four games in the semifinals.

Last night, the Mooseheads held Byron to an assist and one shot while limiting the Olympiques to just 25 shots.

Like Halifax, Gatineau is in rebuilding mode after Byron's partner in crime, Claude Giroux, graduated

to the pros.

"We punished him every chance we got," said Mooseheads blueliner Gabriel O'Connor.

"He's not with Giroux anymore so it makes a big difference. We never let him go."

Alexis Piette, Charles Bety and Tomas Knotek staked Halifax to a 3-1 lead

early in the third. Although Jan Stransky gave Gatineau a glimmer of hope with 6:38 to go, Cheremetiev later scored a sweet breakaway goal to clinch the victory.

Mark Yetman made 23 saves.

Although the Mooseheads have a 7-12 record, they are 5-5 in their past 10 games and have won two of their past three. They're taking that as a sign they're turning a corner.

"We believe we can beat any team in this league with hard work and playing smart," said O'Connor.

Man faces attempted murder charges after stabbing

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A 30-year-old man will be in court today, facing upgraded charges of attempted murder.

The charges are in relation to a stabbing incident early Friday morning. At 1:19 a.m., police were called to a Dawn Street address in Halifax.

They found a 20-year-old man with stab wounds

and he was taken to the hospital. He was listed as being in stable condition.

Police believe that two men had begun fighting, when one of them pulled out a knife and stabbed the other man several

times.

The suspect was gone before the police arrived. But he was known to police, and was taken into custody on Saturday morning.

Originally classified an

aggravated assault, the charges were upgraded to attempted murder.

ShareYourViews

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Local



A week of remembrance

A week-long vigil to remember the 68,000 Canadians who were killed in the First World War starts tomorrow in the Grand Parade in Halifax. Beginning at sunset each night until sunrise, the names of the soldiers who died will be projected onto the façade of St. Paul's Church.

METRO HALIFAX

Historic buildings in limbo

Armour to appeal regional council's decision not to redevelop downtown sites

LINDSAY JONES

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Armour Group's Waterside Centre is going to an appeal.

In a statement released Friday, Armour president Doug MacIsaac said appealing to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board is an "unprecedented decision" for the company.

"Armour has historically respected the decisions of council, viewing them as reflections of public opinion," MacIsaac said.

"However following the recent session of council, there was immediate public backlash ... We have also been asked by many individuals and many members of the business community to appeal this decision to the UARB."

Premier Rodney MacDonald was so upset at council's decision to vote down Armour's planned redevelopment of six heritage buildings that he threatened to enact legislation that would overturn it.

On Friday, the premier said the province will apply for intervenor status in the Waterside Centre appeal. He said the project will bring much-needed class A office space in the downtown, and create tax revenue and jobs in the trades.



Construction workers continue demolition yesterday of the building that housed Sweet Basil Bistro. Demolition began on Friday.

The next step

- The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board will set a hearing within 45 days.
- After all submissions are heard, the board has 60 days to make a decision.

"The way it is now, everyone loses," MacDonald said. "The developer can't build

and the heritage sites will be torn down; that just can't happen. The only way these heritage buildings will be saved is by incorporating them into a modern city."

Armour has applied to take the buildings down and already began doing so at one property that's already approved.

The project would've pre-

served the facades of six heritage buildings on the corner of Duke, Hollis and Upper Water Streets and put a six-storey glass tower on top.

Armour said it's the only economically sustainable solution to redevelop the site.

The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia has led the fight against the development.

Trust president Phil Pacey said Friday the appeal is unfortunate, but Armour has the right to do so.

To stop those demolitions, Pacey has offered to help find tenants to protect the future of the buildings, but Armour said the status quo is not an option. Pacey is also hoping a land exchange with the province can be a solution.

History of the Sweet Basil building, 1870 Upper Water St.:

1999 Sweet Basil Bistro
1989 Cafe Scanway
1981-87 Historic Properties restoring buildings. Various tenants: Fawcett/Bradshaw goldsmiths, Silver Spoon desserts
1976-80 Vacant
1952-1974 Tom's Lunch, Tom's Coffee Shop
1949 Hilda's grocery
1945-48 Wm Mason...Wm Boutlier
1941 Vacant store
1939 Vacant store
1937 Emilie Longfils
1936 Emilie Longfils, confectionery
1929-30 Emilie Longfils, cigars and tobacco
1925 Vacant
1915 Mrs. Mary Gooley, grocer
1905 John. L Gooley
1894-95 Clement Parsons, fireman (boarding house)
1884-86 Louis Mejan (boarding house)
1875-76 Peter Martin, liquors
1872-74 Peter Martin, grocery and liquors
1864-64 Peter Martin, eating saloon, steam ferryboard wharf. Thomas Martin, grocer and liquor

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA

News in brief

CRASH A 29-year-old woman died in a car crash after swerving to avoid a deer Thursday. Nicole Melanson of Saint Martin was driving down Second Division Road in Saint Martin, Digby County at 10 p.m. when she tried to avoid hitting the deer. She lost control and her vehicle rolled over. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

THEFT Three teens were robbed of their candy on Halloween on Caledonia Road. At around 9 p.m. two males and a female were approached by a group of teens who demanded their Halloween candy. The female was knocked down and kicked. The males tried to help her but were also assaulted. One bag of candy was taken.

METRO HALIFAX

Activist Muriel Duckworth turns big 100

CENTENARIAN To get hundreds of people to come out to your birthday party, you've got to earn it. Few would doubt Muriel Duckworth has earned it over the last 100 years.

"Gosh, it's astounding. You have to be 100 years old to have this," the activist icon said while looking out at the lobby of the Rebecca Cohn packed with people celebrating her centennial birthday. The full house was more than she'd foreseen.

"Oh no, " she said between bites of cake. "I didn't expect this. It's amazing."

It was fitting that yesterday afternoon's event was also a fundraising concert

to launch the Oxfam Canada Jack and Muriel Duckworth Fund for Active Global Citizenship. The fund will support Oxfam Canada programs and partners, particularly ones aimed at youth and women.

Duckworth has become renowned as a crusader for social justice, women's rights, peace and fighting poverty. She said she believes things are better today than when she began her work decades ago.

"I think more people are realizing that peace is possible, but they have to get out there and do it. Make peace possible," she said.

As for the secret to her longevity, she can only



Guests at Muriel Duckworth's 100th birthday party speak to Duckworth at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium yesterday.

guess herself.

"People ask me, 'How did you do it?' And I can't really tell them how I did it. The only answer that I have towards it is that as a small child I went to school in a

one-room schoolhouse. I used the same cup to drink out of that everyone else drank out of and I think I built up a defence for myself," she said, smiling.

PAUL MCLEOD / METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Read about Barack Obama's unlikely rise, lies told by both candidates and more coverage of the U.S. election at metronews.ca/world
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search at metronews.ca/workopolis
Play online Sudoku at metronews.ca/play

Lotteries

Friday, Oct. 31

Lotto Super 7 7, 10, 13, 14, 23, 39 41. Bonus 16

Saturday, Nov. 1

Lotto 6/49 18, 25, 33, 40, 42 & 49 Bonus 19

These results are not official.

Upgrades to Halifax Common fountain

Watch out — construction crews are making electrical upgrades to the fountain in the Halifax Common starting today. Several of the walkways will be impacted. **METRO HALIFAX**

Woman dies scuba diving

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A woman is dead after scuba diving off of Sambro Island this weekend.

The 28-year-old woman's name has not been released.

She died on Saturday morning after a dive from the boat Ryan & Erin about four or five kilometres off shore.

A coast guard rigid inflatable boat happened to be in the area heading out to do some work on a buoy.

"They basically overheard the distress call and were able to make it to the location in about six minutes," said Capt. Edward Stewart with the Joint Rescue and Co-ordination Centre.

"As I understand it, two out of the three people on board the coast guard vessel were rescue specialists."

Stewart said he didn't know if her fellow divers had pulled her out of the water at that point, but the woman was unresponsive when the rescue team got there.

But thanks to the coast guard's quick response, firefighters were at the

"Despite the tragic end to it, every break this poor woman possibly could have got, she got in terms of their location."

Capt. Edward Stewart

wharf when the rescue boat pulled in. Paramedics and police showed up soon after.

The woman was rushed to the QEII before noon on Saturday, but she was pronounced dead at the hospital.

"Despite the tragic end to it, every break this poor woman possibly could have got, she got in terms of their location," Stewart said.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Peter McTiernan said the cause of the woman's death is still 'very much in the air' and they are investigating. An autopsy was scheduled for yesterday afternoon.

The boat Ryan & Erin is owned by Skipper Dave's Charters in Sambro Head. A spokesman there did not want to comment yesterday.

Atlantic Fashion Designers' showcase



A model wears Halifax-based Kim Munson's Orphanage clothing line during Saturday night's Atlantic Fashion Week Designers' Showcase.

Airport, union arrive at tentative deal

AGREEMENT The Halifax Stanfield International Airport reached a tentative deal with union officials representing airport employees over the weekend.

The Halifax International Airport Authority had been in talks with the Public Service Alliance of Canada and the Union of Canada Transportation Employees.

The deal still needs to be ratified by union members at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13. Full details will be released at that time.

Jeannie Baldwin, Regional vice President for the Public Service Alliance of Canada said she was pleased to reach an agreement that recognizes the employees, "whose work has consistently resulted in helping this airport being recognized as number one in its class in the world." **METRO HALIFAX**

Transit warns of fake passes sales

FRAUD A spike in fake bus passes has Metro Transit warning customers to only buy their passes from official outlets.

On Friday Metro Transit issued a release saying it had detected an increase in the number of fraudulent bus passes being detected. Metro Transit is working with Halifax Regional Police on investigating the matter.

"Use or sale of a fraudulent document is a criminal offence and any offenders who are caught will be prosecuted," read the release.

Riders are advised to ask for a receipt as proof of purchase and not to laminate their passes or alter them in any way.

A list of official retail outlets is available at www.halifax.ca/metrotransit

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

TIRE DEMAND While winter tires are flying off shelves at local service stations, at least one wholesaler is warning buyers to beware of price gouging. Mike Langille, owner of Andy's Tire Shop, said he received information from competing wholesalers they would be increasing prices between six and 12 per cent effective Oct. 26. Langille said wholesalers purchase tires from some common sources and order in the spring for fall delivery. Most already have the tires in stock for distribution. Langille compares the tire industry to the fuel industry, saying when a product is in high demand and the supply is low prices are bound to increase. **METRO HALIFAX**

Teens top awards with water-gathering Camel



LINDSAY JONES
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A group of teenagers' invention to help women in Africa carry water long distances has won them several national awards.

The group of 50 high school students took part in the Dalhousie Shad Valley program, a summer business program held throughout Canada each year at a dozen universities. The students were asked to come up with a start-up venture, based on a theme of design with a conscience.

The students in Halifax designed The Camel, which looks like a wheelbarrow, but in fact the wheel is a removable cylinder

Shad Valley

The enrichment program for high school students is run by Shad Valley International, a non-profit organization based in Waterloo, Ont.

der that stores up to 30 litres of water. A device borrowed from another company purifies the water. And the large mesh basket is for carrying extra items like firewood.

Team leader Katherine Rodd said women and girls spend up to eight hours daily getting water, which is often contaminated.

"It will decrease the time women will spend gathering water every day," said the 18-year-old from

Shad Valley program coordinator Jenny Baechler pushes the Camel. From left to right are Dalhousie Shad Valley program participants Trevor Burton, Tony Cheng, and Katherine Rodd.

Kingston, Ont. "It will give them a lot more time that they use for starting their own business ventures or just going to get further education because what we found also is a lot of young girls had to go help their mothers with this so they couldn't stay in school."

When the students took the Camel to the national competition in Waterloo, Ont. just over a week ago, they cleaned up, taking home three firsts and several other runner-up prizes.

"We walked in there and said 'Oh I hope we just get something — even a third place.'"

"We were like wow. It was crazy," Rodd said.

The students won cups for best overall project, best application of scientific principles and best prototype.

Animal rights activists are calling on the Calgary Zoo to stop breeding elephants after Malti, a 15-month baby pachyderm, died Saturday. Zoocheck Canada's Trudy Sattler said the elephant herpes virus that killed Malti was likely passed down from one of the adult **METRO CANADA**

Canada



Rae sets sights on Liberal leadership

Former Ontario Premier Bob Rae, left, all but officially announced he was entering the race to replace Stéphane Dion as the leader of the Liberal party. Over the week-end Rae confirmed his intentions to run, but has yet to make a formal announcement. Rae is expected to wait until the party sets down the rules and timetable for the leadership campaign before officially throwing his hat in the ring. Rae also ran in the 2006 Liberal leadership race that Dion won. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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A horror film comes to life, police allege

Edmonton filmmaker facing murder charge

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
Metro Canada

Friends of an Edmonton filmmaker are shocked at police allegations that he brought a gory screenplay to life by killing a stranger he lured off the Internet under the guise of a beautiful woman.

Police have yet to find 38-year-old Johnny Altinger's body, but have arrested and charged fledgling filmmaker Mark Twitchell, 29, with first-degree murder. It's alleged he killed Altinger in a horrific real-life adaptation of his recently penned psychological thriller.

Altinger, a quality control manager who worked at Argus Machine, was reported missing on October 10, the same evening he went to meet a woman he'd met on an Internet dating site.

He was unmarried, and is described by co-workers as quiet, and someone who kept to himself.



Mark Twitchell

Police allege that Twitchell posed as the woman and lured Altinger to a rented garage on 57 Street and 40 Avenue, where he was filming a movie.

The script was recently seized by police. The plot: a sociopathic killer lures victims to a garage, ties them to a chair, and chops them to pieces.

"I'm still assuming this is a big mix up. He's a lot of things, but he's not a killer," said former colleague Galen Pendleton, adding he knew of the

movie Twitchell had written.

"I actually asked if I could be in it," he said.

Part of the script included the killer prying his victims' website passwords out of them before they died.

Altinger's friends say he sent out an e-mail, claiming he'd met a woman who was taking him to her winter home in Costa Rica. Police strongly believe he was not the author.

On Oct. 13, three days after Altinger disappeared, his Facebook profile had changed, listing him as in a relationship. His status read: "John is taking off to the Caribbean for a few months."

Police believe they have enough forensic evidence to convict Twitchell the murder.

Pendleton describes Twitchell as a little nerdy and awkward, but a nice, normal guy.

"He'd have to almost admit to it for me to think he was guilty," he said.

RCMP suspect local behind B.C. bombings

PIPELINE Investigators probing another deliberate explosion that targeted natural gas pipelines in north-eastern B.C. believe a local could be behind the attacks.

"When looking at when and where the attacks occurred, it is safe to say that the person or persons responsible knows how to locate the sites and has knowledge of the sites," said RCMP spokesman Sgt. Tim Shields in a news conference Saturday.

Man in hospital after being Tasered

CALGARY The man who was Tasered by police in Calgary's southeast Saturday night got what he deserved, according to a neighbour and witness.

Tom Allen said the man, who was fighting for his life in hospital after police used the stun gun on him, "got what was coming to him."

"(The police) had their hands full," Allen said.

The Alberta Serious Response Incident Response Team is investigating the incident. **METRO CANADA**

In-law Obama's Canadian relative



Senator Barack Obama has a Canadian in his family. His half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, pictured, is married to Konrad Ng, a Chinese-Canadian from Burlington Ont. and assistant professor at the University of Hawaii.

TUFTS COVE: WASTE HEAT RECOVERY PROJECT

Nova Scotia Power is hosting a community open house regarding Tufts Cove: Waste Heat Recovery Project. This open house is part of the Environmental Assessment process for this project. Nova Scotia Power will have staff on site to discuss the environmental assessment process as well as the project.

The open house will be held Thursday, November 6th from 3pm – 8pm.

Join us at the Tufts Cove Generating Station at 315 Windmill Road. We look forward to seeing you.

Tufts Cove Generation Station
315 Windmill Road, Dartmouth
Thursday, November 6th, 2008
3pm until 8pm



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Comment & Views

Comment

It's a mag, mag world in winter

HineSight

Anne Hines



November. Time to participate in some traditional Canadian winter activities.

Such as complaining and checking out immigration opportunities in Bermuda.

The key to getting through winter is to get out-

side and do something enjoyable. I favour a nice brisk run to the store to grab some magazines and then hole up for the duration.

I once read a stunning statistic that said the average Canadian reads more magazines per year than...well...people who don't read as many. So today, I bought my stash.

First up, a glossy money management magazine. The lead article advises me to, "Put all disposable assets into buying discounted stocks." I would do that, but I just used them to buy the magazine.

Women's magazines are often accused of being solely obsessed with weight loss. This is untrue. The one I bought was also obsessed with sex.

A women's monthly had the usual piece on "the secret to keeping off the weight." I always think these articles should be titled, "Never eat anything you really like ever again."

Women's magazines are often accused of being solely obsessed with weight loss. This is untrue. The one I bought was also obsessed with sex. How to do it,

when to do it, who to do it with. In my life that kind of list usually pertains to a car pool. I did enjoy the article "Money can't buy happiness" which would have been even better if it weren't followed by a ten-page spread of the trendiest bags and accessories that assure you it absolutely can.

A high fashion rag featured Brooke Shields wear-

ing "Fabulous Holiday Party Fashions."

It never bothers me that that I don't own any of those gorgeous clothes. It occasionally bothers me that I'd have nowhere to wear them if I did.

A psychology review offered tips for improving your memory. The key is to focus on what you're doing. Concentrate. At least I think it was...I kind of lost interest part way through. What I want to know is why can I remember all the words to the Gilligan's Island theme song but not the grocery list I made out ten minutes be-

fore I left for the store.

Finally, a health magazine promised, "Reading this will make you feel better." The solution is, incredibly, eat properly, exercise and get enough sleep.

This would have made me feel better if I hadn't spent \$8.99 for what my mother keeps telling me for free. They also gave, "Ten Coping Strategies for Making It Through Winter."

Tip # 1? Buy magazines.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Views

No easy solutions for youth violence

By Christine Williams

On Oct. 21, 14-year-old Rajiv Dharamdial took a shortcut home from school in Brampton, Ont. through a field when he was attacked and stabbed. The youngster dialed 9-1-1 for help and gave police important clues to help find his youth killers, but he didn't make it.

Rajiv's aunt railed against a justice system that she called lax with youth criminals. She isn't alone as citizens across the country are increasingly outraged by violent crimes, linked to gangs. Ironically, a week before Rajiv's burial, the court case began, involving the murder of innocent 15-year-old Jane Creba, gunned down in broad daylight while shop-

ping on Toronto's busiest street on Boxing Day in 2005, highlighting yet another dramatic tragedy of youth violence.



Christine Williams

Out-of-control violence is no respecter of persons, nor place. Take, for instance, last weekend's suspected gang-related shootout inside a Calgary strip mall restaurant, killing a man and woman in their 20s. It's time to quit the politicking about banning handguns as a solution. Criminals don't obey gun bans. Canada already has strict regulations on gun ownership, which included

the expansion of the gun registry in the mid-'90s.

Some government programs seem to be a step in the right direction. In September, former federal minister of public safety Stockwell Day announced \$5 million in funding out of a \$33-million National Crime Prevention Strategy — for a project aimed at preventing and reducing gang activity in Toronto. Ontario has also funded community-based mentoring programs. And, in Edmonton, which is now the gang-related murder capital of Canada, police have re-iterated calls for a preventative solution.

Most perpetrators of deadly violence are poor youth with gang affiliations, whose families are in desperate need of education and mentorship.

Many are trapped in a vicious cycle of children having more children. Take for example, the horrific shooting of 18-year-old Amon Beckles in 2005 at a Finch-area Toronto church. He was attending the funeral of his friend who was also gunned down. Amon was a father.

Like Amon, many victims of gang crimes are involved in gangs, so mainstream society understandably empathizes more when a knife or bullet kills young innocents. If we toughen penalties, then they need to be combined with mandatory rehabilitation strategies to lower the rate of recidivism. But the best hope is prevention.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.



MICHAEL DE ADER



THE FATE OF 100 PHOTOGRAPHERS IS IN YOUR HANDS.

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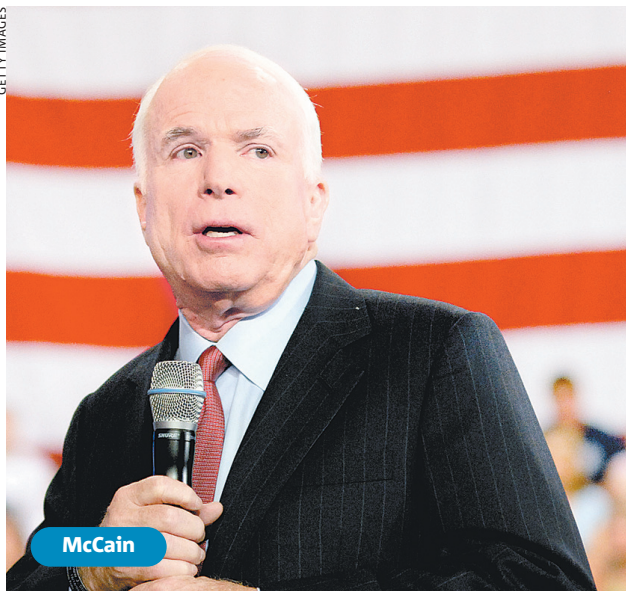
The Canadian photographers are competing for a Nikon D700 DSLR and Nikon 24-70mm F2.8 Zoom Lens (Valued at \$4,988) the winner will then go on to compete on the international level for a 5 day trip for two to Paris, a cashprize of \$2,000 CDN and an option to have their photos seen by 23.1million Metro readers in over 100 metropolitan cities on 4 continents.

Vote on www.metronews.ca/photochallenge

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World/Business



McCain



Obama

Campaign 2008: True lies

The opposing campaigns in the 2008 U.S. presidential race have come under closer scrutiny than ever before thanks to websites such

as www.politifact.com and www.factcheck.org, which analyze candidates' claims and verify them – or otherwise.

And the fact is that Americans have been lied to, almost constantly, by both the major campaigns. Barack Obama and John McCain have

been guilty of little white lies to downright going-to-hell-in-a-handcart whoppers. Here are some examples.

METRO WORLD NEWS

McCain

1 **When:** July 3, July 8, July 14, Aug. 12, Sept. 12, Sept. 18.

Claim: Obama favours higher taxes and increased public spending.

Wild claim: Obama wants to raise taxes for anyone on more than \$32,000 US and has voted 94 times for tax increases.

FACTCHECK: Most earning under \$250,000 a year would see taxes fall. Of the 94 votes, 23 were against tax cuts, not for tax raises; and seven would have produced lower taxes.

2 **When:** June 5, Aug. 27. **Claim:** Obama blocked a vote labelling Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization; he de-

clared the Iran threat "tiny."

FACTCHECK: Obama co-sponsored a bill calling the Revolutionary Guard a terrorist group; and Obama actually said Iran was a "tiny" threat – in comparison to Russia. McCain left that little bit out.

3 **When:** Sept. 4, Sept. 12, Sept. 22. **Claim:** Sarah Palin said she had opposed, all along, the Bridge to Nowhere in Alaska.

Wild claim: Palin said, "Thanks, but no thanks." **FACTCHECK:** Palin supported the project during her run for governor. She still received all the funds for the bridge,

but could spend them as she liked.

Obama

1 **When:** Sept. 19, Sept. 20. **Claim:** McCain will cut your social security.

Wild claim: Obama says McCain wants to cut benefits in half, that McCain wants to invest retirement funds in the stock market and elderly women would starve because of recent stock market turmoil.

FACTCHECK: Existing retirees would be unaffected. In fact, no one born before 1950 would be touched.

2 **When:** July 14, Aug. 14. **Claim:** Obama said he would fast-track alterna-

tives to imported oil.

Wild claim: If Americans properly inflated their tires, it would save as much oil as off-shore drilling would produce.

FACTCHECK: The fast-track is a ten-year research fund. That's all. And the tire claim is absolute bunkum.

3 **When:** April 29. **Claim:** McCain wants U.S. troops to remain in Iraq for 100 years.

FACTCHECK: McCain was referring to peacetime, as in Korea and Japan.

Read biographies of both candidates and more election coverage at metronews.ca/world.

Business

Investors await election results

Canadian investors will be riveted by the U.S. presidential election next week, searching for signs that a new leader will help steer markets clear of the financial crisis threatening the global economy.

Though the benchmark index of the Toronto Stock Exchange has barely budged the day after the last five U.S. elections, this time promises to be different because of the meltdown.

Republican candidate John McCain has trailed Democratic rival Barack Obama in the polls, but the Nov. 4 election will remove all guesswork about who the next President will be and will let the United States focus anew on efforts to steady the economy.

And, removing that factor of uncertainty could provide a short-term boost to equity markets, one analyst noted.

In the trading session following four of the last five presidential elections, Toronto's composite index dipped less than 1 per cent, according to Reuters data. The notable exception was in 1996, when Democrat Bill Clinton was re-elected. The index rose about 1.5 per cent the following day.

REUTERS

Index

On Friday, the S&P/TSX composite index closed lower by 93.45 points, or 0.95 per cent, at 9,762.76.

Hollywood North on the rebound

FILM As the Canadian loonie reached parity with the American greenback earlier this year, producers of multimillion-dollar feature films began moving their productions back to the U.S. because it's too expensive too shoot in here.

Toronto's film commissioner, said the volume of production is down this year, but things are beginning to look up as the loonie falls again and lowers costs. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

In brief

MEDIA Bond rating agencies DBRS and Moody's said they were putting CanWest Global Communications Ltd.'s debt ratings under review, after shares in the media company lost two-thirds of its value since September.

CANDY Potentially tainted Hershey's chocolate has been discovered in Oshawa and Niagara Falls, just days after federal inspectors removed 640 pieces of the candy from five Toronto stores. The chocolate was recalled in November 2006 after salmonella was found in the ingredient soy lecithin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Metro readers say it's Obama all the way

JIM REYNO
jim.reyno@metronews.ca



SURVEY According to Metro readers worldwide, yes he can. And he will.

Respondents to a recent Metro Life Panel survey overwhelmingly support Democratic candidate Barack Obama as the next president of the United States.

Three quarters of those surveyed say they hope Obama defeats Republican John McCain in tomor-

row's election. About 70 per cent of Canadians surveyed are in support of Obama.

Even more Metro readers believe Obama will win: 82 per cent (80 per cent in Canada).

Whoever does win will have some fences to mend.

A staggering 85 per cent of respondents believe the reputation of the U.S. has worsened in the eight years under George W. Bush's presidency — that number rises to 92 per cent among American respondents.

More than half of Metro readers feel an Obama presidency will improve relations with their country.

But when it comes to what the next president should make his top priority — it's the economy, stu-

pid. More than half of Metro readers say the financial crisis is the key issue for the next U.S. administration. Americans (67 per cent) and Canadians (65 per cent) feel most strongly about that.

The survey involved readers from Canada, the United States, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Hungary.

There were 336 respondents from Canada on the Metro panel.

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Metro is the world's largest newspaper, with more than 23.1 million daily readers in 100 major cities in 23 countries. metronews.ca

The power of aluminum

The energy saved by recycling just one aluminum can would power a TV for three hours, according to Greenology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

7

Going Green



The sleep factor

Screensavers don't save electricity. Instead, set your computer to go into sleep mode when you aren't actively using it. That can cut your power consumption by five times, according to The Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONews.CA

When regulatory structure fails

ScienceMatters

David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola



Consensus is growing that the failure of governments to effectively regulate the banking sector is largely responsible for the huge economic mess we're now facing. Throughout the past few decades, those who were entrusted to protect the public interest have accepted as gospel the idea that governments should get out of the way and let markets self regulate, with

disastrous results.

Unfortunately, that ideology has infiltrated our governments' thinking beyond the financial markets. At the heart of many of our most pressing environmental crises is the same belief that governments should abandon their regulatory responsibilities and allow the private sector to get on with business.

I was reminded of this regulatory failure in early October when TransCanada Corporation, one of the world's largest pipeline companies, was granted rubber-stamp approval for a massive gas pipeline across northern Alberta. The pipeline will eventually bring natural gas from the Canadian north over to the Fort McMurray area, where it will be used to fuel further tarsands exploitation.

At the heart of many ... environmental crises is the belief that governments should abandon their regulatory responsibilities and allow the private sector to get on with business.

The pipeline will cross lands belonging to the Lubicon Lake Indian Nation, a small aboriginal community that has fought for decades to have its ancestral lands in the boreal woodlands of northern Alberta recognized and protected. Throughout that time, the Lubicon have seen their traditional way of life eroded as their lands have been leased out to oil and gas companies at a breathtaking pace. They've seen more than 2,000 oil and gas well sites, 32,000 kilometres of seismic lines, and more than 2,000 kilometres of roads pushed through their forests.

The Lubicon Nation is concerned that the new pipeline will not bring long-term benefits to the community, but will instead bring more feeder lines, more clearing, and more gas exploration and other industrial activity that will further fragment and degrade their once-rich hunting and trapping grounds in the boreal forest.

I have followed the Lubicon struggle with great interest. They were a people who lived traditionally off the land until the 1970s when they discovered that development — seismic lines, electrical lines, roads, etc. — was beginning to have an impact

on their territory. They chose to fight the plans of the multinational Japanese paper company Daishowa Inc. to clearcut their boreal forests, and for years, they worked tirelessly to protect their land.

Not once but four times now the United Nations has chastised Canada for failing to resolve the Lubicon land-rights dispute, calling what is happening to the Lubicon an abuse of their human rights under international covenants. In August, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination wrote to Canada, saying there are "doubts as to whether the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Utilities Commission may legitimately authorize the construction of a pipeline across Lubicon Territory without prior Lubicon consent."

The struggle is not new. From Haida Gwaii to Lubicon to Grassy Narrows and countless other aboriginal communities, First Nations people have stood up against powerful industrial interests and indifferent governments.

Ultimately the Lubicon's struggle is about keeping all of us safe. The responsibility of governments to protect the environment hasn't received the same attention from politicians as the recent financial collapse, but in the long run environmental deregulation by government threatens to do a lot more damage to our economies, the health of our ecosystems, and our well-being.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

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Honduras.....15.9 ¢ Chile.....2.9 ¢
Panama.....3.9 ¢ Colombia.....3.9 ¢
Uruguay.....7.9 ¢ Dominican Rep..6.9 ¢
Venezuela.....2.9 ¢ Mexico.....2.9 ¢

Middle East



Bahrain.....5.9 ¢ Kuwait.....6.9 ¢
Egypt.....14.9 ¢ Oman.....17.9 ¢
Iran.....3.9 ¢ Saudi Arabia.....3.9 ¢
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New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur has been ruled out for today's tilt with the Buffalo Sabres after suffering a bruised left elbow in Saturday's game against Atlanta. Brodeur will see his streak of consecutive regular-season starts end at a career-high 51 games. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Youngest champ yet

McLaren's Lewis Hamilton, left, roared into the record books as Formula One's youngest champion yesterday when he snatched the title in last lap drama at the Brazilian Grand Prix. Needing to finish fifth to win the title, Hamilton began the final lap in sixth place, but passed Toyota's Timo Glock on the final corner to seal the championship.

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Maple Leafs fall to Hurricanes

NHL RECAP

HOCKEY Chad LaRose picked up the game-winning goal in the third period as Carolina outgunned Toronto, 6-4, in the opener of a home-and-home set between the clubs at RBC Center.

Eric Staal, Ray Whitney and Tuomo Ruutu each contributed a goal and one assist for Carolina.

Mikhail Grabovski netted a pair of goals for the Maple Leafs, who lost for the second time in the last six games. Ian White and Niklas Hagman also tallied.

Curtis Joseph remained winless on the year after allowing five goals on 29

shots.

Oilers 5 Flyers 4 — Ales Hemsky picked up three points on two goals and one assist as Edmonton held on to top Philadelphia, 5-4, at the Wachovia Center.

Ducks 3 Flames 2 — Ryan Getzlaf had a goal and assist and Jean-Sebastien Giguere made 34 saves to help the Anaheim Ducks to a 3-2 victory over the Calgary Flames at the Honda Center.

Thrashers 5 Panthers 3 — Ilya Kovalchuk registered two goals and an assist, as Atlanta defeated Florida, 5-3, in a tussle between two slumping Southeast Division clubs at Philips Arena.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dal turnaround complete

Men's soccer Tigers go from worst to first, Capers take women's AUS crown

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Dalhousie Tigers have gone from worst to first and are Atlantic University Sport men's soccer champions.

The Tigers, coming off a one-win, last-place finish in 2007, rebounded in impressive fashion and captured their first AUS title in nine years yesterday with a 1-0 victory over the New Brunswick Varsity Reds in Sackville, N.B.

"Last year was a disappointment to say the least," said tournament MVP Ben Ur, a second-year goalkeeper from Halifax who earned the shutout yesterday. "We knew we had a good team at the start, but in the middle of the year, we realized we had something special and knew we could make a run for it."

Dal head coach Pat Nearing called Ur "out-



The Cape Breton Capers celebrate their fourth championship in a row after defeating the Dalhousie Tigers in the Atlantic University Sport women's soccer championship final at Huskies Stadium yesterday. Cape Breton defeated Dalhousie 2-0.

standingly fabulous" in the final, while midfielder Eric Negulic of Bedford delivered the game-winner 21 minutes into the first half.

Nearing said it's the first time in AUS history a team has won a title with-

out a first-round bye. The Tigers entered as the third seed and knocked off the Mount Allison Mounties on Friday and the Saint Mary's Huskies on Saturday.

The Huskies, who had bye, grabbed a 1-0 lead on

Saturday, but the Tigers bounced back to win 2-1.

"We're ecstatic to have this turnaround," Nearing said. "It's a historic feat and we have a great group of guys, a young team, and we beat some great teams to accomplish this."

The Tigers advance to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship starting Thursday in Ottawa.

In women's play at Huskies Stadium, the third-seeded Tigers also advanced to the championship game, but dropped a 2-0 decision to the reigning national titleholder Cape Breton Capers, who claimed their fourth consecutive AUS banner.

The Capers knocked off the host Saint Mary's Huskies in Saturday's semifinals, while the Tigers advanced to the final with wins over the St. Francis Xavier X-Women on Friday and the Memorial Sea-Hawks on Saturday.

Tennessee continues winning ways

NFL ROUNDUP

FOOTBALL Rob Bironas kicked a 41-yard field goal 5:24 into overtime to keep the Tennessee Titans unbeaten with a 19-16 victory over the Green Bay Packers at LP Field yesterday.

Bironas had a chance to end the game in regulation, but his 47-yard attempt as time expired bounced off the right upright. The Titans won the coin toss to start the extra period and immediately gave him another chance.

Dolphins 26 Broncos 17 — At Denver, Ronnie Brown rushed for a score just outside of three minutes remaining in a two-point game and Will Allen had a 32-yard interception return for a touchdown as Miami held off Denver.

Jets 26 Bills 17 — At Buffalo, Abram Elam returned an interception 92 yards for a touchdown and Thomas Jones ran for a score, as New York downed Buffalo in an important AFC East matchup.

Bears 27 Lions 23 — At



Miami running back Ronnie Brown hurdles Denver's Marlon McCree during the the Dolphins' 26-17 win yesterday.

Chicago, Rex Grossman filled in for an injured Kyle Orton and ran for the winning touchdown as Chicago came from behind to down Detroit.

Bengals 21 Jaguars 19 — At Cincinnati, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 162 yards and two touchdowns, and Chad Johnson

caught both, giving the Bengals a win over Jacksonville in what was Cincinnati's first victory of the year.

Ravens 37 Browns 27 — At Cleveland, Joe Flacco threw for 248 yards and a pair of touchdowns, and Terrell Suggs returned an interception for a touch-

down to seal it, as Baltimore rebounded from a 14-point deficit to top Cleveland.

Giants 35 Cowboys 14 — At New York, Eli Manning threw three touchdowns as New York crushed Dallas Cowboys in an NFC East showdown.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Huskies finally get V-Reds in OT

AUS HOCKEY Andrew Hotham's overtime goal yesterday at the Halifax Forum was long overdue for the Saint Mary's Huskies.

The second-year defenceman's goal at 8:59 lifted the Huskies to a 4-3 win over the defending Atlantic University Sport men's hockey champion New Brunswick Varsity Reds.

The Varsity Reds swept the Huskies in last year's AUS final with a pair of overtime victories.

Elsewhere yesterday, the Dalhousie Tigers (2-4) lost 6-0 on the road to the unbeaten Moncton Aigles Bleus.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

AUS FOOTBALL The Saint Mary's Huskies will face the St. Francis Xavier X-Men in the Loney Bowl Atlantic University Sport football final this coming Saturday at Huskies Stadium. The X-Men trounced the Mount Allison Mounties 52-12 in the semifinals on Saturday. Halifax running back James Green led the X-Men attack, gaining 168 yards and two touchdowns on the ground.

RUGBY The St. Francis Xavier X-Women lost 29-15 to the host Lethbridge Pronghorns in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport women's rugby championship yesterday.

METRO HALIFAX

SCOREBOARD

| NHL | Nashville at Vancouver, 11 Anaheim at Los Angeles, 11:30 Minnesota at San Jose, 11:30 | Miami 26 Denver 17 N.Y. Giants 35 Dallas 14 Atlanta 24 Oakland 0 Philadelphia 26 Seattle 7 New England at Indianapolis |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YESTERDAY'S GAMES | | |
| Carolina 6 Toronto 4 Edmonton 5 Philadelphia 4 Atlanta 5 Florida 3 Anaheim 3 Calgary 2 San Jose 5 Colorado 3 Detroit at Vancouver | | |
| NFL | | |
| TONIGHT'S GAME | Pittsburgh at Washington, 9:30 | |
| YESTERDAY'S GAMES | Chicago 27 Detroit 23 Minnesota 28 Houston 21 Tennessee 19 Green Bay 16 (OT) N.Y. Jets 26 Buffalo 17 Arizona 34 St. Louis 13 Baltimore 37 Cleveland 27 Cincinnati 21 Jacksonville 19 Tampa Bay 30 Kansas City 27 (OT) | |
| TOMORROW'S GAMES | Buffalo at New Jersey, 8 Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 8 Colorado at Chicago, 9:30 Carolina at Toronto, 8:30 N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 8 Washington at Ottawa, 8:30 Phoenix at Calgary, 11 | |
| NBA | | |
| YESTERDAY'S GAMES | Milwaukee 94 New York 86 Oklahoma City 88 Minnesota 85 | |
| TONIGHT'S GAMES | Chicago at Orlando Sacramento at Philadelphia Detroit at Charlotte Golden State at Memphis Cleveland at Dallas Utah at L.A. Clippers | |

University of Lethbridge lures renowned neuroscientist

Acclaimed neuroscientist Bruce McNaughton is moving his research program from the University of Arizona to the University of Lethbridge's Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience after winning one of 3 \$20-million Polaris Awards, the richest health research award in Canada. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

Workology



Habs worship

In January, the Université de Montreal's theology faculty will offer a course on the relationship between religion and the Montreal Canadiens. The hockey team has several religious connotations, such as its French nickname Sainte-Flanelle (the Holy Flannel). **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA



Maurice Meagher sits on an Archadeck deck on a Halifax backyard last week. He set up the franchise six years ago.

Passion for building turns into reward

JON TATTIE
for Metro Canada



A Halifax man has been named Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Nova Scotia by the Business Development Bank of Canada.

Maurice Meagher, 34, set up an Archadeck franchise in the city six years ago. It's gone from a two-person shop run by him and his wife Wendy to a growing firm of five employees, plus contract workers.

"It's nice to get a little recognition for the whole team," Meagher said at his Almon Street office last week after returning from a trip to Vancouver to collect the award. "It reflects on everyone."

Archadeck of Nova Scotia designs and builds environments for outdoor living, including decks, screened porches, sunrooms and outdoor kitchens, as well as spe-

"It's nice to get a little recognition for the whole team. It reflects on everyone." Archadeck owner Maurice Meagher

cialized exterior lighting. Its selling point is offering a "turnkey solution" to renovators, handling everything from the permit process to design and construction tailored to specific needs and budgets.

"With our software, we can also show customers full-colour, three-dimensional renderings, including a number of alternatives. Within our industry, none of our competitors can offer the scope of services or level of detail that we do," Meagher said.

The Port Hawksbury native started his own com-

pany after working in IT in the U.S.

The year-round business experiences spikes in spring and fall, but works steadily in all four seasons. "We can sometimes be even more productive in winter than in the spring, because it's so wet here (in the spring).

From a few thousand dollars to \$50,000, Archadeck can tackle just about any job with a strong, personal touch.

"We design and build," Meagher said. "We'll come right out to the house and spend a fair bit of time with them in the backyard

to get a really good idea of what they're hoping to do and how much they feel comfortable spending on it."

He encourages potential entrepreneurs to pursue something they feel passionate about. "It's important to remember that it doesn't happen overnight. You have to have a clear plan in place and continue to readjust it."

It took him and his wife two to three years of morning-to-midnight days, with no vacation and little time off, just to get it rolling. Now, with Wendy doing the bookkeeping from home with their two young kids, he can work a more regular week.

"Maurice has used his entrepreneurial drive and determination to create a solid local presence and build recognition for his business, while leveraging the advantages of a franchise operation," said BDC president Jean-René Halde.



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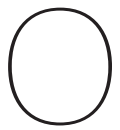
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Just be your ornery, difficult self



ne afternoon, in the bush outside Kingston, Ont., Vesna Saric blockaded

the road with a pile of rocks and demanded money for her two dead sheep.

The soldier she was speaking to through an in-

terpreter did his best to calm her down, kindly refuse her requests for money and eventually get her to clear the road.

Half an hour later, it was over. Another successful military training exercise complete. The soldier learned a little about dealing with civilians in difficult situations and Saric simply had fun doing her job.

As a military role player, Saric, 53, has done dozens of these types of simulations to help members of the Canadian Armed Forces learn to negotiate and communicate with locals in the countries they're visiting.

Saric is Bosnian and was an Arabic/Serbo-Croatian interpreter in her home country and in the Middle East. But the after-effects of war made her decide to immigrate to Canada, and she moved to Ottawa in 2002. Through an agency, she started doing part-time work for the Department of National Defence, briefing military staff on Bosnian culture.

Two years later, she was asked to help gather a group of Bosnians to act as role players for a training exercise. They headed off to Kingston for five days.

"They're not actors. The only big requirement is that

OddJobs

Diane Peters



they play themselves," says Saric.

Although the days were long and the exercises had to be repeated for every soldier doing the training (one actor would do the part a handful of times and then another would step in), the work was fun. All the role players had to do was follow a very basic script, be helpful if the soldier did things right and become increasingly difficult if he or she was rude or broke a cultural rule. Even if different actors played the same role in a vastly different way, that was fine: soldiers were going to meet all kinds of people while on deployment.

Saric has just completed her masters in political science at Carleton University and is looking for a new job that suits her skills. She still helps organize training sce-

The Lowdown

Job title: Military Role Player

Education/training: You must be able to follow a simple script and basic instructions in English — but otherwise talk in your native tongue and be yourself

Best Part of the Job: "It's very big fun. It's also nice to help soldiers learn to communicate with people who are not native English speakers."

Worst Part of the Job: "Waking up at 4 am to be on the job in Kingston at 8 am."

narios, and recruits people to role-play locals from Afghanistan, Somalia, Haiti and Sudan — places Canadian forces are deployed today.

With few Canadian soldiers in Bosnia today, she just participates in sessions where various ethnicities are needed, and does it about twice a month. That's fine: she still gets to be herself.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Ostrom wins Portia White award

Lunenburg's Walter Ostrom won the prestigious \$25,000 Portia White Prize on Saturday during the Creative Nova Scotia awards gala at Pier 21. The ceramics artist and craftsman was an award finalist along with Mary Jane Lamond of Glencoe, Inverness Co. and sculptor and blacksmith John Little of East Dover. **METRO HALIFAX**

11

Entertainment

Spidey scribe

Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire, the man behind the show *Rabbit Hole*, is in negotiations to write the screenplay for *Spider-Man 4*. **IMDB.COM**



Masked suspenseful

Highly-charged Neptune Theatre play requires concentration, but well worth it

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

It's an hour and a half of intense dialogue with a conclusion that shakes you to the core even though you know there can't be a happy ending.

Ilan Hastor's *Masked* is a new play at the Neptune Studio Theatre that tells the story of three Palestinian brothers torn between duty, kinship, principles and survival during the Intifada in The Middle East crisis.

The play directed by Halifax's Anthony Black is set entirely in a butcher shop in the West Bank in 1990, and stars Ketch Harbour's Theo Pitsavas (Daoud), and Toronto's Karan Oberoi (Na'im) and Ali Momen (Khalid).

Besides the opening scene between Oberoi and Momen where they talk openly and explain the conflict between the

brothers, the three actors are always on stage together. Oberoi's character is a Palestinian rebel who wonders if his oldest brother Daoud is an Israeli informant. The youngest brother Momen is stuck in the middle of everything and struggles to know where his loyalties should lie.

All three deliver strong performances which is vital to a play like this where there are no other characters, very few props and the exact same set throughout. The characters are believable and do a great job of drawing you into this family strife as you question who to believe and who to feel sorry for.

The writing is also strong, but requires a great deal of concentration as the story is told slowly and in great detail. But that doesn't make this play boring as the sus-

pense and highly-charged interactions keeps you fixated on the stage throughout.

The ending is both frightening and disturbing, but necessary for a conflict like this. Anything less doesn't give proper context to an Intifada which killed over 2,000 people, most of whom were Palestinians.

This play isn't for everyone. You won't find laughs or get any breaks from the intensity-filled situation. But if suspenseful, real-life dramas are for you, *Masked* is a must see.

If you go

- **WHAT:** *Masked*
- **WHERE:** Neptune's Studio Theatre
- **WHEN:** Through Nov. 16.
- **TICKETS:** Adult tickets range from \$15 to \$35. Phone 429-7070 or visit neptunetheatre.com.



Karan Oberoi, left, and Ali Momen, both of Toronto, are two of the stars in Neptune Studio Theatre's new play *Masked*.

Enright revisits the past in new collection

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

BOOKS Most of us, if we're truthful, look at old pictures of ourselves and cringe a bit. The same can be said of writers revisiting their words.

"It's really hard to read old work," said author Anne Enright. "Essentially, yes — you'd go back and do it all again. And the other thing is, you can't do it all again because you're 10 years older. You're a different person."

Enright, winner of last year's Man Booker Prize for her novel *The Gathering*, has taken a look back through her prose. Yesterday's *Weather* is a retrospective collection of short stories being released in North America for the first time. Its tales of love and family are presented in reverse chronological order.

"It was a very amusing thing to do, and I thought actually that people might forgive the earlier stories," Enright said with a laugh. "Or they might go, 'Oh God, she's really gone off!'"



Anne Enright

In the stories, the Dublin writer reveals both sides of her characters: We see their social interaction, as well as what's going in the limitless expanse of their thoughts.

"They're mostly about ordinary women who have an extraordinary inner life," Enright said. "That's how I phrase it. They have small lives and large thoughts, which I think is basically what we all have, one way or another."

Enright assumes various perspectives in her stories. There's a wife who lives with a promiscuous hus-

band; a daughter whose parents find new life on a vacation cruise; and a new mother overwhelmed by her in-laws in the title story.

"I get a very strong response from that, I really do," Enright said. "Especially from men — funnily enough."

"If people have been in *The Zone*, which is such an extreme place, when babies are tiny — you just don't know what the hell has hit you."

Enright said some people believe the stories are autobiographical. Not her.

"A lot of the characters in that collection are versions of people who aren't me," she said in a phone interview from a Toronto hotel.

"So it's like: Not me, not me, not me. It's all these 'not me's' ... They're aspects of yourself that you wouldn't choose to develop, necessarily."

"There's freedom in fiction — that's one of the things we like about it. They are freedoms I took, I suppose."

Aguilera reworks old classics on new album

MUSIC Whether she's exposing her erotic side on the 2002 *Stripped* album or emulating pinup dolls in videos like *Candy Man* and *Ain't No Other Man* from *Back to Basics* in 2006, Christina Aguilera has continually reinvented herself.

With the November 11 release of *Keeps Getting Better: A Decade of Hits*, the 27-year-old singer is reinventing old hits.

The album, which will

be sold exclusively in Target, includes new versions of *Genie in a Bottle* and *Beautiful*, titled *Genie 2.0* and *You Are What You Are (Beautiful)*, respectively, plus the new songs *Keeps Getting Better* and *Dynamite*. Staples such as *Dirty*, *Come On Over* and *Hurt* also appear.

Produced by longtime collaborator Linda Perry, the new and remixed tracks all feature "futuristic sounds with beats driv-

en more toward dance music," Aguilera says. "This time around, I'm playing with this superhero element based on the fact that fans have grown up with me since I was 17 and have continually supported my changes throughout the years."

Keeps Getting Better is already selling well online. It sold 144,000 copies in its debut frame the week of October 5.

REUTERS

metro's kooliest

The Best Halifax has to Offer

Metro News and Kool 96.5 want YOU to weigh in on the city's coolest places to eat, party, shop — you name it!

Go to metronews.ca or kool965fm.ca to register your choice for this month's category:

Metro's Kooliest place to shop for Women's Fashions!

One lucky player will win a prize pack valued at over \$100!

We Play Anything.
KOOL 96.5 FM



Pop star Michael Jackson has ruled out a Jackson 5 reunion. Recent reports had the Jackson brothers — Michael, Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Randy and Marlon, planning a world tour next year with their singer sister Janet Jackson. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Good cast but thrills fall flat

The Haunting of Molly Hartley
Director: Mickey Liddell
Stars: Haley Bennett, Jake Weber, Chace Crawford
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●½

JIM REYNO
for Metro Canada

Everyone knows the drill, the horror-movie drill. Things seem to be going along smoothly, then — boo! — the usually innocuous surprise, like a bark from a dog or a tap on the shoulder from a friend. Used sparingly, this horror-movie device can be fun and effective. It heightens tension then immediately releases it — sometimes you can hear the sighs of relief in the theatre. It's part of the reason why we enjoy the horror-movie ride. But used too frequently, this device becomes predictable and, eventually, boring. That's what happens in *The Haunting of Molly Hartley*, a choppy, disjointed movie short on



Haley Bennett plays the title character Molly Hartley in this rather predictable horror movie.

scares and story. It's like they couldn't wait to make a movie, so they plowed ahead with the production without developing a plot. The script is lazy: Stuff happens that isn't connected, you can see some events coming a mile away and — worst of all — there's an amoral, baffling ending that explains nothing. We're expected to be satisfied

knowing that, OK, this is bad stuff over here, good stuff over here. Don't sweat the details. The cast is fine. Haley Bennett, who plays Molly, is believable as the subdued student hiding a lot. Jake Weber plays Molly's father, Robert. He reprises his role from TV's *Medium*, playing the sensitive, caring dad. Heartthrob Chace Crawford portrays Molly's romantic interest, Joseph. There's not much range in the role, but Crawford fills it dreamily. But despite solid, likeable performances, everything *The Haunting of Molly Hartley* tries to do has been done better previously in other movies.

Box office

- Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to studios:
- 1 **High School Musical 3: Senior Year:** \$15 million US
 - 2 **Zack and Miri Make a Porno:** \$10.7 million
 - 3 **Saw V:** \$10.1 million
 - 4 **Changeling:** \$9.4 million
 - 5 **The Haunting of Molly Hartley:** \$6 million
 - 6 **Beverly Hills Chihuahua:** \$4.7 million
 - 7 **The Secret Life of Bees:** \$4 million
 - 8 **Max Payne:** \$3.7 million
 - 9 **Eagle Eye:** \$3.4 million
 - 10 **Pride And Glory:** \$3.3 million

In brief

BOX OFFICE The new James Bond film, *Quantum of Solace*, debuted in Britain Friday to record one-day ticket sales of 4.94 million pounds (\$8 million US), distributor Columbia Pictures said Saturday.

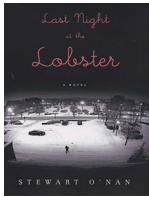
REUTERS

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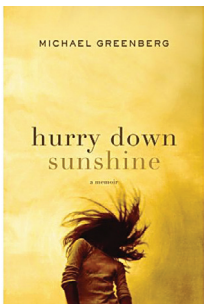
Love, loss at Red Lobster

BookPicks



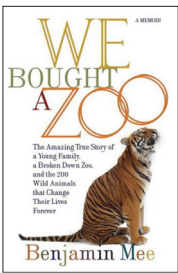
Last Night at the Lobster
Author: Stewart O'Nan
Publisher: Penguin Books
Price: \$14.50 (Paperback)

Manny DeLeon is stuck between a fish and an olive. Well, not literally. He's the manager of a Red Lobster in New England that is being forced to close its doors. Not only does that mean Manny is out of a job he's inordinately attached to, but he's being bumped down to assistant manager and transferred to the Olive Garden. Add that to his romance woes — he's struggling between his past lover Jacquie and girlfriend Deena. In *Last Night at the Lobster*, Manny has one night to keep himself together in spite of what he's got to lose.



Hurry Down Sunshine: A memoir
Author: Michael Greenberg
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: \$29.95 (Hardcover)

When somebody is "struck mad," changing her life and personality, who is the first person you think of? Not likely a 15-year-old girl. But that was the wearisome experience of Michael Greenberg's daughter Sally, which began in the summer of 1996. In *Hurry Down Sunshine*, Greenberg recalls the manic bout in detail. He describes how Sally began to go mad from the beginning and how, as a father, there was little he could do to help her. Greenberg leaves no stone unturned in his vividly personal account of mental illness.



We Bought a Zoo: A memoir
Author: Benjamin Mee
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Price: \$29.95 (Hardcover)

When the Dartmoor Wildlife Park in southwest England was forced to shut down in 2006, Benjamin Mee found opportunity. Mee moved his entire family — wife, mother, son, daughter and brother — to the zoo to take up residence, joining a host of exotic animals that lived there. With a dream of reopening the zoo, Mee his family struggled through both animal and human barriers, including the death of Mee's wife from a brain tumour. In *We Bought a Zoo*, Mee's journey leads to the triumphant 2007 opening of the Dartmoor Zoological Park.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

Kath & Kim is extended

IntelleVision



Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD Either everybody was wrong about Kath & Kim or the networks are more desperate than anyone thought to keep the airwaves buzzing. Last week, I reported that the buzz about the NBC comedy was more of a spit bubble, but the network has given the show a full-season pickup, according to a story in Variety on Friday.

With an average of six million viewers over four episodes so far, the Americanized adaptation of the Australian hit has retained enough My Name Is Earl viewers from the preceding Thursday night slot to get an order of nine episodes, and the likelihood of a DVD season box set on the shelves by summer.

Another lucky prime-time title is Samantha Who?, the Christina Applegate vehicle, which got an order of another seven episodes from ABC after pulling in 9.6 million view-

Bosnian war film wins festival

ROME Resolution 819, a film about the Srebrenica massacre in the last months of Bosnia's 1992 to 1995 war, won the top prize at Rome's film festival on Friday.

The film tells the true story of a police officer sent by the UN's highest court to investigate the disappearance of 8,000 Muslim men and boys from the Bosnian town after it fell to Bosnian Serb forces.

On the web

Scott "the Sartorialist" Schuman:

• Street-fashion photographer Scott Schuman reveals what catches his eye and what cities have him hitting his shutter-button. Read it at metronews.ca/style



See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies



The NBC comedy series Kath & Kim starring Selma Blair, left, and Molly Shannon has been given a full-season pickup.

ers last Monday. Things aren't looking so good for 'Til Death, which Fox has pulled from Wednesday night for the next two weeks in favour of House reruns, promising in that vague Fox kinda way to bring it back after November sweeps are over.

The CW has also made some confident noises, upping episode orders for shows like 90210 and One Tree Hill, which have been expanded to 24 episodes, and Gossip Girl, which will be filling out a 25-episode season. It's nice to know that, in these perilous economic times, at least a few showrunners and executive

producers will be able to upgrade their car lease to the latest Benz sedan.

Not so lucky are Valentine and Easy Money, two CW shows that "had been put on hiatus with skeleton crews while more scripts were written," according to L.A. Weekly's insider Nikki Finke. Both have now been put on "permanent hiatus," a Hollywood euphemism that has a meaning much like "concrete tuxedo" does in organized crime, or "non-operative personnel" in the military.

Finally, I have sad proof that the world isn't organized in a Cartesian system in which I am the sole central consciousness: Fox has ordered a fifth season of American Dad, while cancelling King of the Hill after this final 13th season. I have long been convinced

"I have sad proof that the world isn't organized in a Cartesian system in which I am the sole central consciousness: Fox has ordered a fifth season of American Dad."

that I was the only person watching KOTH, while I have several sound scientific studies proving that American Dad is only slightly funnier than looped footage of racehorses breaking their legs in crowded turns, writhing in pain before being discretely dispatched out of sight of the crowds. This news confirms that I am not, in fact, the centre of the universe, while there are millions of people out there who will laugh at anything.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Phillips pleads guilty to charge

COURT Former One Day at a Time television star Mackenzie Phillips pleaded guilty to cocaine possession and was ordered into another drug rehab program.

Phillips, 48, thanked police for arresting her at Los Angeles International Airport in August, saying "they saved my life" in an address to Friday's court hearing.

The actress was charged with possessing cocaine, heroin and a hypodermic needle or syringe found airport security found drugs packaged in balloons and plastic bags on her.



Phillips

critics' corner

Brotherhood

The fabulous Caffee boys, their friends and relations are back for a third season of this acclaimed drama series about an Irish-American family in Providence, R.I. In the premiere, "Uneasy Lies the Head," Tommy (Jason Clarke) thinks about taking the plunge into a new career. Declan (Ethan Embry) launches a corruption investigation but keeps it under wraps. Rose (Fionnula Flanagan) does the same with her declining health. Jason Isaacs also stars. 11 PM on M1



Dragon's Den

Pro wrestling may be fake, but the muscles on the participants are real. In this new episode, the Dragons hear a pitch from a former wrestler who has a new bodybuilding system. 8 PM on CBC

Boston Legal

Alan Shore and Denny Crane (James Spader, William Shatner) sue the government when cattle rancher Carol Hober (guest star Valerie Bertinelli) — who Crane believes is the spitting image of Valerie Bertinelli — accuses the USDA of not allowing her to test all her cows for mad cow disease, an affliction that's close to Denny's heart. But Denny continually irritates Carol when he tries to make her confess that she really is Bertinelli. 11:02 PM on ABC

| HA | H | D | B | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 11/3/08 | 31 | 31 | 31 | ABC | News (N) | ABC Wild News | Inside Edition | Chronicle | Dancing With the Stars | | Samantha Who | Boston Legal | |
| | 7 | 7 | 7 | ASN | The Road to Avonlea | | Robson Arms | TMZ (N) | Sarah Connor Chronicles | Two/Half Men | Samantha Who | Cold Case | |
| | 11 | 11 | 11 | CBC | Coronation St. | Jeopardy! (N) | Dragon's Den (N) | | The Border (HDTV) (N) | CBC News: The National | | The Hour | |
| | 2 | 2 | 2 | CBC-F | Terre humaine | Pyramide (SC) | Virginie (SC) | Les Parent (N) | L'Auberge du chien noir (SC) | Hauts | | Le Téléjournal | |
| | 32 | 32 | 32 | CBS | News (N) | Evening News | Evening News | Entertainment | Big Bang Th | How I Met | Two/Half Men | Worst Week | CSI: Miami (N) |
| | 69 | 69 | 69 | CFTM | TVA 18 heures | Le Cercle (SC) | Les Auditions de Star Acadé | | Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC) | Dr. House (HDTV) (SC) | | TVA 22 heures | |
| | 6 | 6 | 6 | CHIF | Entertainment | ET Canada | Prison Break (N) | | Saturday Night Live Presidential Bash 2008 (N) | | | News (N) | |
| | 9 | 9 | 9 | CJCH | etalk | Hollywood | CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N) | | Dancing With the Stars | | Corner Gas (N) | News (N) | |
| | 10 | 10 | 10 | ELTV | EastLink Mag. | Fishing | Harv's Sportsland (Live) | | Build It | Harv's Sportsland | EastLink Television | | |
| | 36 | 36 | 36 | FOX | Deal-No Deal | The Simpsons | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | Sarah Connor Chronicles | | Prison Break (N) | | Fox First |
| primetime | 12 | 12 | 12 | NBC | News (N) | NBC Nightly News | | Extra (N) | Deal or No Deal (iTV) (N) | Saturday Night Live Presidential Bash 2008 | | | |
| | 29 | 29 | 29 | NW | World News | Business | CBC News | Newman | The Hour | CBC News: The National | bin Laden | | |
| | 4 | 4 | 4 | PBS-B | NewsHour With Jim Lehrer | Greater Boston | Chronicles | | Antiques Roadshow (N) | | Frontline "The Choice 2008" (DVS) | | |
| | 35 | 35 | 35 | PBS-D | NewsHour With Jim Lehrer | Business Rpt. | Worldfocus | | Antiques Roadshow (N) | | Frontline "The Choice 2008" (DVS) | | |
| | 68 | 68 | 68 | TQS | (6:30) Le Retour (SC) | C't'une joke | Loft Story | | CSI: NY (SC) | Bob Gratton | Les Voisines | 110 pour cent | |
| | 23 | 96 | 96 | BNN | Business News | Headline | Market Call | Berman's Call | Money Talks | Business News | Squeeze Play | Market Call | |
| | 18 | 18 | 18 | CNN | (5) The Situation Room | | Lou Dobbs Tonight | | Campbell Brown: No Bias | | Larry King Live | Cooper 360 | |
| | 54 | 54 | 54 | GOLF | Road Trip | Road Trip | Junior Ryder Cup Highlights | School of Golf | Golf Central | | U.S. Open Golf Highlights (N) | The Turn (N) | |
| | 52 | 52 | 52 | RSE | Prime Time Sports | | Air Racing | World Combat League | | | Best Damn Sports Show | Sportsnet Con. | |
| | 55 | 55 | 55 | SCOR | Hockey Talk | Game On | The WWE Experience | (9:15) WWE Monday Night Raw | | | | | |
| news | 45 | 45 | 45 | SPD | Unique Whips | | Pinks (HDTV) | Pass Time | This Week in NASCAR (N) | NASCAR Confidential (N) | | Auctions | |
| | 53 | 53 | 53 | TSN | Off the Record | SportsCentre | That's Hockey! | Monday Night Countdown | NFL Football Pittsburgh Steelers at Washington Redskins. | | | | |
| | 43 | 43 | 43 | FAM | Zoeys 101 | Life Derek | Wizards-Place | That's-Raven | Zack & Cody | Natural-Sadie | Han. Montana | Life Derek | Ned's School |
| | 44 | 44 | 44 | TOON | 6teen | Total Drama | George-Jungle | Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show | Wayside | Johnny Test | Futurama | American Dad | |
| | 26 | 26 | 26 | TREE | Max & Ruby | Backyardigans | Wonder Pets | Nght Grdn | Friend Rabbit | Franklin | Little Bear | Miss Spider | Comfy Couch |
| | 27 | 27 | 27 | YTV | Drake & Josh | iCarly | Malcolm-Mid. | Home Improve. | Malcolm-Mid. | Fresh Prince | Futurama | Prank Patrol | Mystery Hnt. |
| | 16 | 16 | 16 | A&E | Cold Case Files (HDTV) | | CSI: Miami (HDTV) | | Intervention | | Intervention "Charles" | | I Survived |
| | 70 | 70 | 70 | APTN | News | | Notre Peuple | | La Cité | Mishkuenita | Les Doors *** (1991, Docudrame) | | |
| | 50 | 50 | 50 | BET | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | | | Access | Uncle P (2007, Comedy) Master P, Romeo, Cheech Marin. | | | Movie Special | |
| | 37 | 37 | 37 | BRVO | Street Legal | | Desperate Housewives | | Streets of Encounter | | Wireframe | | Asylum |
| family | 60 | 97 | 97 | CLT | Mysterious Ways | | Judging Amy "The Pilot" | | Commander In Chief | | The West Wing | | Truth, Duty |
| | 25 | 25 | 25 | CMT | Dedicated | | All About (N) | Tara Diaries | Home Improve. | Home Improve. | Reba | Reba | Hope & Faith |
| | 49 | 49 | 49 | COM | Laughs | Comedy Now | Air Farce | Just for Laughs | | Corner Gas | The Simpsons | South Park | Simple Life |
| | 153 | 153 | 153 | COURT | W-FIVE | | The Investigators | | Cops Uncut | Dumb Criminal | Legal Briefs | | Investigators |
| | 38 | 38 | 38 | DISC | Destroyed | Destroyed | Daily Planet (N) | | MythBusters | | Dirty Jobs (N) | | Worst Driver |
| | 34 | 48 | 48 | HGTV | Holmes on Homes | | House Hunters | Property Virgin | My First Place | Home to Stay | Property Virgin | Marriage | Income Prop. |
| | 46 | 46 | 46 | HIST | Sinking an Aircraft Carrier | | NCIS "Good Wives Club" | | Battle 360 | | Sinking an Aircraft Carrier | | NCIS |
| | 17 | 17 | 17 | MM | Punk'd | Video on Trial | Video on Trial (N) | | Degrassi: Next | Degrassi: Next | MuchNews | The NewMusic | Video on Trial |
| | 19 | 19 | 19 | MMM | MusicProfile | mmmtop10.com | | Revival | | | Coolio's Rules | | Parental Advis. |
| | 201 | 201 | 201 | M1 | (6:15) Year of the Dog | | Sanctuary "Sanctuary for All" | | | | Californication | Little Britain | Brotherhood |
| cable variety | 48 | 23 | 23 | OLN | The Amazing Race 4 | | Ed's Up | Videos | The Academy (N) | | Mantracker | | Departures |
| | 51 | 51 | 51 | PEACH | Seinfeld | Friends | House-Payne | House-Payne | Anaconda ★ (1997, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez, Ice Cube. | | | | Steve Harvey |
| | 206 | 206 | 206 | PIX | (6:15) True Crime (1999, Crime Drama) | | | (8:25) The Pathfinder ★★ (1996) | | | Goldfinger ★★★★★ (1964, Action) | | |
| | 67 | 67 | 67 | RDI | RDI en direct | RDI en direct | 24 Heures en 60 minutes | | Grands reportages (SC) | | Le Téléjournal (SC) | | RDI en direct |
| | 39 | 39 | 39 | SHOW | Prime Suspect 7 | | Love-Death | Love-Death | Painkiller Jane | | Kenny-Spenny | Rent-A-Goalie | Name Is Earl |
| | 40 | 40 | 40 | SLICE | Matchmaker | Til Debt-Part | End of Leash | ET Canada | Til Debt-Part | Newlywed | Beautiful | Party Mamas | Runway |
| | 47 | 47 | 47 | SPACE | Stargate SG-1 (DVS) | | Lost "Collision" | | Star Trek | | Battlestar Galactica | | Eureka |
| | 14 | 14 | 14 | SPIKE | Unsolved Mysteries (HDTV) (N) | | CSI: NY "The Ride-In" | | CSI: NY (HDTV) | | Unsolved Mysteries (HDTV) | | CSI: NY |
| | 57 | 98 | 98 | STAR | FashionTele | Look-A-Like | The Ellen DeGeneres Show | | TMZ (N) | etalk | Scream Queens | | Tonight Show |
| | 21 | 21 | 21 | TLC | What Not to Wear | | Little People | Little People | Little People | Little People | Jon & Kate Plus 8 (N) | | 17 Kids-Count |
| cable variety | 56 | 34 | 34 | TROP | News Show | News Show | TV Made, Do It | Very Bad Men | | What Happen? | Make or Break | TV Made, Do It | Planet Soap |
| | 20 | 20 | 20 | TV5 | Que-champion | Journal de Fr2 | Toute une histoire | | Vie privée, vie publique | | | | Partir autre |
| | 28 | 28 | 28 | V | Just Cause | | Murder, She Wrote | | Prime Minister | May-December | McLeod's Daughters (N) | | Protestant |
| | 22 | 22 | 22 | W | House | Style by Jury | Will & Grace | Friends | How Clean | House | Love It or List It (N) | | Real Est |
| | 251 | 251 | 251 | WGN | Be-Millionaire | Evening News | Two/Half Men | Family Guy | Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N) | | One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N) | | WGN News |



Actress Chloe Seigney has split from her rocker boyfriend Matt McAuley. The star has been dating the A.R.E. Weapons bass player on and off for the past eight years, but friends insist this split is for good. [IMDB.COM](#)

Celebrity Buzz

Kidman keeping daughter protected

PARENTING Nicole Kidman refuses to show her baby daughter off to the world because she's made a point to keep her as protected as possible, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The actress gave birth to Sunday Rose in July and she insists there



won't be any family magazine spread or intimate shots released online.

That means she and husband Keith Urban are willing to fight the world's paparazzi over what has become a top-price first picture of the new baby.

"People say, 'Oh, it would be so much easier if you'd just let them (paparazzi) get a photo of her.' And I can't. I'm like, 'I don't want to. I want her to stay out of that,'" Kidman tells the upcoming issue of America's Parade magazine. "Maybe that will wane as she gets bigger, and I'll be easier with it. But, for now, I'm keeping her in a bubble."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Olsen planning to wed?

WEDDING Actress Ashley Olsen is planning to marry National Treasure star Justin Bartha in a secret \$1-million US ceremony in the French Riviera, according to reports.

The pair is rumoured to be in discussions about possible nuptials in the South of France next summer, [imdb.com](#) reports.

According to the National Enquirer, 22-year-old Olsen's wedding party will include twin sister Mary-Kate, her 19-year-old sister Lizzie and half-sister Taylor, 12. Her two brothers are said to have been enlisted as groomsmen



for the event. And the star has reportedly tapped her famous friends to help her celebrate.

"Ashley has dreamed of having her wedding on the French Riviera, and she's going to ask her favourite designer, Karl Lagerfeld, to create a custom-designed gown ... She also wants photographer Annie Leibovitz, who Mary-Kate has worked with, to capture the entire extravaganza on film," a source tells the tabloid.

Olsen has been dating 30-year-old Bartha since the beginning of the year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alba inspires Spelling

HEALTH Actress Tori Spelling had a hard time regaining her pre-pregnancy figure, but looked to actress Jessica Alba for inspiration to shed the weight, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The star welcomed her second child, Stella Doreen, on June 9, whereas Alba gave birth to Honor Marie on June 7.

Seeing photos of a slim Alba spurred Spelling on to get back in shape.

"I would look at pictures of myself and compare them to Jessica Alba, who had her baby two days before me. I'd see photos of her two months after and go, 'Look at her!'" Spelling says.

But being mom to Stella and one-year-old Liam came first to Spelling, and she refused to forfeit

her time with them for the sake of her figure.

"The best way to lose weight is to make it a family affair," she says. "It has changed my life. It's easier now because I'm not as focused on it. Take your time. If you get obsessed, you'll miss out on great moments with your children."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Cowell, girlfriend call it quits

BREAKUP American Idol judge Simon Cowell and his girlfriend Terri Seymour have called it quits, Cowell's rep confirms to People.

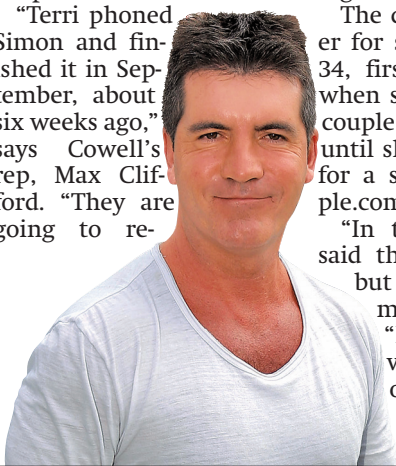
"Terri phoned Simon and finished it in September, about six weeks ago," says Cowell's rep, Max Clifford. "They are going to re-

main close friends. Simon thinks the world of Terri and that isn't going to change. He also understands her reason for ending it."

The couple were together for six years. Seymour, 34, first met Cowell, 48, when she was 18, but the couple didn't begin dating until she interviewed him for a show in 2002, People.com reports.

"In the past Terri has said that she wants kids but that just isn't Simon," adds Clifford. "Nobody else is involved, certainly not on Simon's side."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity briefs

Hudson may be dating athlete

DATING Kate Hudson is dating her childhood friend, Los Angeles Clippers star Baron Davis, according to reports. Hudson, who has known Davis since she was 16, has been spotted out with him in Los Angeles, according to Star magazine.

"Kate and Baron looked like they were on a date," a source says. "They enjoyed a few drinks together and whispered in each other's ear throughout the night. At the end, they jumped into his car and drove back to her house in Pacific Palisades. They've been spending more and more time together since Baron moved back to L.A. this summer."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Electra not rushing down the aisle

MARRIAGE She's wearing an engagement ring, but actress Carmen Electra is in no rush to say "I do," People.com reports.

"That's the thing this time — we're going to avoid everyone else's pressure and go at our own pace," said Electra, whose fiancé is Rob Patterson. "Right now, we're just taking things really slow."

Electra, who was previously married to rocker Dave Navarro and NBA star Dennis Rodman, got engaged to Patterson in April.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



FameThrower

Joe O'Neill



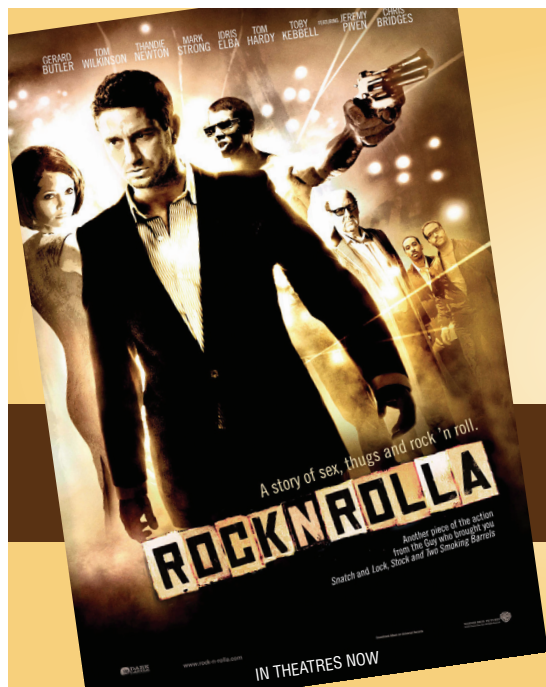
Joe's take on celebrities

Nicole Kidman is intent upon continuing to shield her new daughter **Sunday Roast** from the paparazzi. It's effectively a two-pronged message. First, it suggests **Nicole** does in fact have greater maternal instincts than an igneous rock, and secondly it sends a message to the photographers that the bounty's never been higher on a photo of the kid.

I don't doubt **Kidman's** ability to successfully conceal the child. She's kept any discernable acting talent hidden for close to twenty years now. No word on how protective **Kidman** feels about **Conor** and **Isabella**, the two children that she and **Tom Cruise** adopted, although given the fact that they're being raised by their father, their comment would probably go something like, "Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!"

Perhaps I'm being far too cynical. Maybe **Kidman** has been struck by the magic of motherhood and she and her hubby really will fight to the death against the prying photogs who vie for the image of their progeny. Maybe all the Botox has frozen your brain, but you had a child, you didn't lay a golden egg! And when's your next bad movie coming out, anyway?

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